

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-34 remain in the patent application and claims 35-60 are added by this Preliminary Amendment.

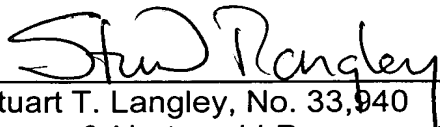
To assist the examiner's initial review of the priority claim in this case, it should be noted that Fig. 13 and Fig. 14, and the associated description appearing on page 7, lines 4-8 and page 8, line 9 through page 12, line 17 are inserted into this application from U.S. Patent 5,788,738, which was incorporated by reference into the parent applications (now U.S. Patent 6,387,560 and U.S. Patent 6,610,355). Similarly, examples 4-11 originally appeared in U.S. Patent 5,788,738. Because the material was incorporated by reference no new matter is added and the instant application is fully entitled to the claimed priority stated in paragraph 1 of the application.

Claims 1-60 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the below-listed attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Twenty six claims are added by this Preliminary Amendment including two independent claims. A check in the amount of \$277 for the required extra claim fees is enclosed. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

January 30, 2004

  
Stuart T. Langley, No. 33,940  
Hogan & Hartson LLP  
One Tabor Center  
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
(720) 406-5335 Tel  
(303) 899-7333 Fax